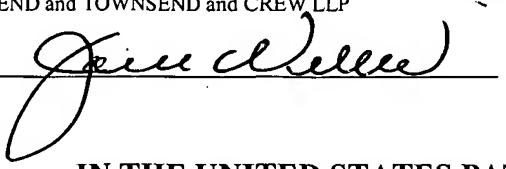




I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 26, 2006.

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: 

PATENT

Attorney Docket No. 21983-1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of:

JERRY M. HOOVER

Application No. 10/717,724

Filed: November 19, 2003

For: WEED PULLER

Customer No. 20350

Confirmation No. 8688

Examiner: Robert C. Watson

Technology Center/Art Unit: 3723

AMENDMENT

San Francisco, CA 94111  
May 26, 2006

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

As a precautionary measure, applicant requests an extension of time, if needed and if not separately attached hereto, and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the fee therefor to our deposit account in accordance with our standing authorization for such charges.

This Amendment is filed in connection with an RCE for the above-referenced application and responds to the Final Rejection dated February 28, 2006.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.